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Our Mission

To ensure that all New Yorkers have equal access to appropriate and meaningful justice.

Our fearless leader:

Hon. Edwina G. Mendelson, Deputy Chief
Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives

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Today's Presenter

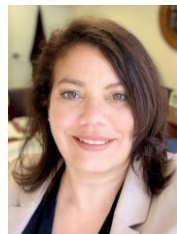
Sky L. Pena-Davis

Regional Project Manager

Criminal Justice and Addictions Professional for over 25 years

Working statewide with drug treatment courts and veterans treatment courts: program development, project management, technological implementation, strategic planning, best practices and ongoing support.

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**Specialized Court Programs =
Problem-Solving Courts**

- Differ from traditional courts
 - Non-adversarial
 - Judge builds rapport with participant
- Focus on specific offenses and eligible offenders
 - Goal is to rehabilitate
- Provide resources and attention to address underlying issues
 - Employment, Counseling, Trauma

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It began with forward thinkers



Miami, FL – 1989
Hon. Stanley Goldstein
Opens first drug court

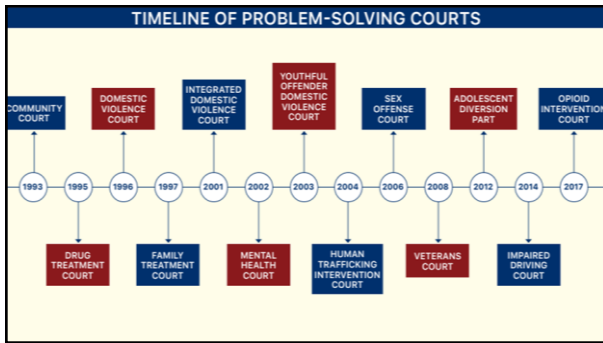


Rochester, NY – 1995
Hon. John Schwartz
Opens first drug court
in NYS

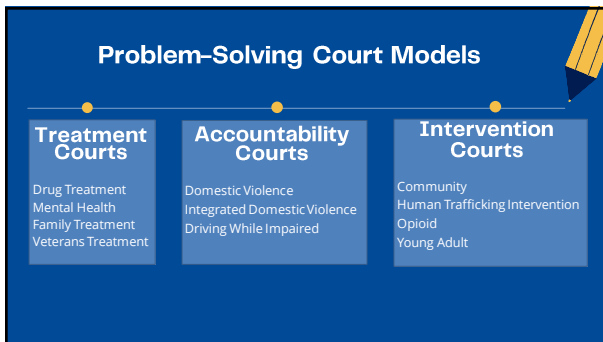


New York – 1999
Chief Judge Judith Kaye
Developed Commission
to study the impact of
drug cases in the courts

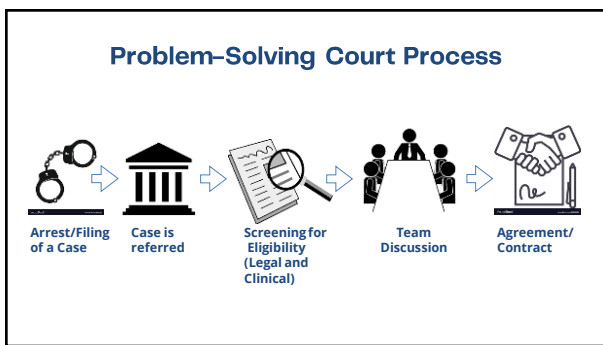
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Problem-Solving Court Features



Trained Judges



Structured days for ongoing interaction



**Dedicated Staff
(Team)**



**Community
Collaboration**

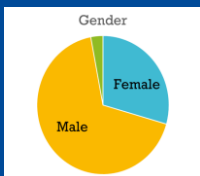
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Who are the Participants in our Problem-Solving Courts?

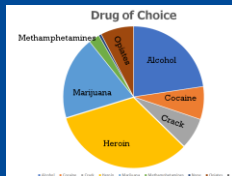


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Treatment Court Data



Age
Range
15 - 85



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Why do PSCs vary by county?

Community Resources




- Geography
- Transportation
- Service providers

District Attorney

- Gatekeeper
- Local policies

Court Team

- Team leader/judge
- Team members

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Why so many different PSCs?

- Participants' needs
- Therapeutic engagement
 - Responses to problems and progress
- Legislation
 - CPL Article 216 (judicial diversion)
 - Veterans Transfer Legislation

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SUCCESS



WHAT PEOPLE THINK IT LOOKS LIKE

SUCCESS



WHAT IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE

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Resources

Adult Drug Court Best Practice Guidelines, Volumes I and II

Research-based guidelines developed by a panel of experts, covering target population; equity and inclusion; roles and responsibilities of the judge; incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments; substance use disorder treatment; complementary treatment and social services; drug and alcohol testing; multidisciplinary teams; census and caseloads; and monitoring and evaluation. Published by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (2013; text revision 2018).

New York Criminal Procedure Law Article 216: Judicial Diversion for Certain Felony Offenders

New York statute establishing a judicial diversion program. Adopted in 2015; amended in 2021.

The Ten Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts

Framework for the veterans treatment court model. Published by Justice for Vets, a division of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (2017).

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Resources – cont.

Lawyer's Manual on Human Trafficking: Pursuing Justice for Victims

By Jill Laurie Goodman and Darchen Leidholdt, eds.

A guide to the social, economic and legal context of sex and labor trafficking and the legal remedies available to prosecutors, lawyers defending victims on criminal charges, and family law practitioners, government benefits experts, and immigration advocates helping victims to rebuild their lives. Developed by the Supreme Court of the State of NY, Appellate Division, First Department, and the NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts (2019).

A Roadmap to Reform: Key Elements of Specialized Courts for Emerging Adults

A description of prominent early emerging adult courts in Brooklyn, San Francisco, and Chicago, and a discussion of key elements and potential pitfalls. Developed by the Emerging Adult Justice Learning Community at the Columbia University Justice Lab (2021).

Promoting Access to Justice through Trauma-Informed Courts

By Sarah Cook, Esq.

Recent article with information on the relationship between trauma and justice involvement; behaviors that might indicate to judges, lawyers, and court staff that an individual has experienced trauma; and practical suggestions for implementing trauma-informed responses. Published by SAMHSA's GAINS Center and Policy Research Associates (2021).

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*Thank
you*



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